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Mines of Butte Better

Today Than Ever.

As president of the Anaconda Copper Mining company and a keen student of conditions generally, Mr. Ben B. Thayer is considered one of the country's leading authorities as to the conditions prevailing.

In a statement to the Butte Daily miner, Mr. Thayer makes the great announcement that the mines of Butte today are greater than ever and that the mining metropolis has every reason to anticipate a greater future than ever.

Mr. Thayer made the statement that the ore showing on the lower levels of the great mines never was as excellent as today.

Mr. Thayer made the following statement to the Miner:

"The mines are in the very best possible shape. They are better than ever before. During the past year more ore has been developed than during any other year of which I have a record. This great development has been principally on the lower levels of the different mines and the development has not been confined to any one particular district.

"The company has been making many improvements and the main one of which, so far as mining development is concerned, has been the application of electricity for the development of compressed air which eventually we hope will be used in place of steam for the hoisting of ores. Electricity is being used in every place possible not only in the cases I have instanced, but also for pumping purposes in the bottom of levels.

"We are making many improvements and testing out new appliances in the reduction department and most of them promise to result successfully.

"So far as the copper situation is concerned there is no reason, so far as I can see, why it should be any different from any large manufacturing business, and I think a general improvement throughout the country will be immediately felt in the copper market.

"At the present time there is a disinclination on the part of corporations as well as individuals to undertake any new obligations as there is a general tendency on the part of everyone to wait and see what happens. By this I mean the supreme court decisions in the Tobacco and Standard Oil cases. There also is a general desire on the part of the people to see what the result of President Taft's efforts as to the reciprocity will be.

"The fundamental conditions in the country are good. I feel positively sure that as soon as the horizon clears that the improvements in business conditions generally will be immediately felt.

"I have heard some complaints since coming here, that Butte has been somewhat dull, but I must say that as far as I can judge, this camp is in better condition than most of the cities I have visited.

"The thing to do is to keep an eye on the bottom of the mines and not until they manifest adverse signs is it time to worry. The mines are greater and better than ever, with a greater showing on the lower levels than ever before. Butte never had such wonderful mines as it has today."

General Manager John Gillie of the Anaconda company in unmistakable language yesterday branded as untrue and absolutely without foundation the persistent rumors of the street that a shutdown of the company's mines is in contemplation.

Rumor had it that a shutdown was imminent to permit making extensive improvements at the Washoe smelter in Anaconda. It traveled with fleet wings and during the day Mr. Gillie was besieged with inquiries. To all of those who inquired Mr. Gillie declared that the story was without foundation and gave assurance that the company had no such move in contemplation.

Beach Line Gold Strike.

Brawley, in Imperial Valley, is in the

throes of a gold excitement that has caused said business men to turn from adding columns of figures and selling real estate or soda water to feverishly climbing sand hills and putting forth more effort at manual labor digging prospect holes than some of them have expended for many years in similar labor, says the News. On Thursday, hardly half of the prominent citizens were left in the city, the remainder being absent at the scene of the gold strike.

The first news of the strike came from the gravel beds on the beach line which was being worked to supply the cement sidewalks being laid in Brawley. Some of this was panned out as an experiment and found to carry considerable color. Claims were immediately staked out and some little development work commenced, but the majority of valley citizens believed the whole matter a hoax until the gold was actually shown.

Since a tin can full of sand brought in by Jack Fogarty and Harvey Spurgeon from the claims 15 miles east of Brawley and panned out Wednesday and was found to contain coarse gold in ample quantity, there has been a stampede from Brawley to the scene. The entire country in the vicinity not already located has been staked out. A rough estimate by experienced miners of the amount of gold carried is 100\$ to the yard.

The rich sand was found Tuesday when Fogarty and Spurgeon went out to stake out more claims.

This sand secured by Mr. Fogarty came from a small hole dug three feet deep near the top of the beach line. The black sand appears to be in layers, the first one encountered being three inches thick. If this black sand can be found in sufficient quantity, the fortunate claim owners may have struck something as rich as the Nome diggings.

Fogarty's claims lie a little north of a direct line east of Brawley, and with his friends, he has located the entire beach line to the point where it ends.

The beach line consists of a comparatively narrow stretch of land, elevated perhaps 60 feet above the surrounding country both east and west. It is covered with wash gravel such as encountered on any land adjacent to the ocean. A thousand theories exist for the presence of the gold, and probably any of them is as good a guess as the next. Whether any bed rock may be found is also a matter of conjecture, as little prospecting was done.

Development work on the beach line will be watched with interest by every experienced miner, as well as the numerous claim owners who have secured locations. The property not being closer than six miles to the nearest canal, the No. 5 main, makes work of any kind difficult and costly. Brackish water may be struck almost anywhere at a depth of 75 to 125 feet along the high ground west of the No. 5 main, so that it is possible to secure a sufficient supply of water for experimental purposes from that source.

Scattered over the desert east of the first beach line are numerous evidences of Indian camps, with broken pottery and simple utensils in abundance.—Parker Post.

Highgrade Vs Low-

Grade Mines.

A quarter of a century ago when mining was comparatively in its infancy in this western country, when business centers were few and far between, when nearby camps of today were then isolated sections in a country of magnificent distances, nothing appealed to the miner and prospector more strongly than a highgrade proposition. This, however, was not from choice, but owing to conditions then existing; to the long distance from market, to the lack of transportation facilities, and the high prices paid for labor and supplies, to say nothing of the inadequate milling and reduction methods then pertaining. Now, however, with almost every condition of that day and date reversed, it is the

big low grade mine that appeals to the experienced mining man and mill operator; and, as a general thing, it is the great lowgrade proposition which pays the most in dividends and whose production continues for years after the exhaustion of the rich mine.

We know that high-grade ore appeals to the imagination and cupidity of the tenderfoot and to the public at large, and that the inexperienced will go into raptures over a few inches of exceedingly rich mineral; but, in the long run, the mine with vast bodies of milling ore in its workings will win out and maintain a paying basis long after the small vein of shipping ore has become exhausted. It has been stated, and correctly so, that a foot of ore that yields from 60\$ to 80\$ a ton in the precious and base metals, is not to be compared in value and source of profit to the eight or ten-foot body of 10\$ and 25\$ ore. In the mining of the small vein, but few men can be employed, while a large amount of dead work must be performed in order to take out a small tonnage. In a large zone of low-grade or milling ore, a small army of men may be employed in mining operations, and but little dead work is required. Cross-cuts, upraises, drifts and winzes can be driven on the ore, and thousands of tons broken down and extracted at a nominal cost, and without the waste incident to the operation of a mine where Nature has deposited her treasures in small but rich veins.

The investor, seeking a producing and paying mine, is generally much more favorably impressed with a low-grade proposition than he is with a mine having rich ore, but in small bodies. Nearly all of the great camps of the west are, comparatively speaking, low-grade propositions; the rich mines which have made fortunes for their owners being exceptions to the general rule. Furthermore, the low-grade mine is much better for a camp than is a high-grade, small-vein producer, as such a mine necessitates the employment of more men, the erection of mills, smelters and reduction works, while more money is in circulation as a result, and the masses, accordingly, are more benefited than if the camp possessed mines with small veins but of high value.—Salt Lake Mining Review.

The Utah Copper.

In commenting upon Utah Copper the firm of Thompson, Towle & Co., of New York, has the following to say:

The potentialities of the Utah Copper property are enormous and few, if any, of the copper mines have before them such a bright future. If one analyzes carefully the exact conditions under which the property is now operating and the conditions under which it will operate, it is seen that the future clearly indicates greater efficiency, greatly increased production and earning power.

This mine, which has been producing scarcely four years, from the date that the first section of the large concentrator went into commission, has made a wonderful record, when one considers the difficulties which had to be overcome in placing on a producing basis a property of this size. Despite the fact that the company has been working on ore lower than average grade, since operations began, an 8-cent cost has been made. The decrease in the grade of ore at Utah has been due to the inadvertent mixture of overburden, which has sloughed off and found its way into the steam-shovel pit.

Shovels are constantly operating on this overburden on both the Utah ground proper and the Boston Consolidated, which lies further up the mountain, and this capping is gradually being eliminated and in time Utah will have bench after bench of clean ore exposed and available for mining. This clean ore means an increase in copper contents, greater recovery in the concentrator, increased production and lower cost. The company's Bingham and Garfield railroad, which is now building to connect the mines

with the concentrators, and which should be operating this summer, will be an important improvement in not only still further reducing cost, but in also assuring the plants ample tonnage.

Utah is probably unsurpassed among the copper mines of the world in ore reserves, having more than 125,000,000 tons available, or seventeen year's supply under the maximum concentrator capacity of 21,000 tons a day, which will be possible with the enlargements now under way in the plants at Garfield. This daily tonnage, when working under the above conditions, will mean an ultimate production of approximately 150,000,000 pounds per annum.

It is interesting to note just what Utah can do with the entire concentrator in operation, and under the extremely low figure for copper of 11 cents per pound. Even assuming that the cost of production is the same as for last year of 8 cents per pound, Utah's earnings from Bingham Canyon properties alone would amount to 4,500,000 per annum. This figure is exclusive of the dividends of Nevada Consolidated, which are received by Utah, and which at present amount to 1,500,000 per annum.

Makes A Second

Rich Discovery.

A Granite Colorado dispatch says:—A second discovery of phenomenally rich gold ore is reported as having been made in the Belle of Granite mine early last week. The find was made in an old abandoned stope in the same part of the mine that produced rich ore 30 years ago, and it is believed that the ore shoot which produced many hundreds of thousands of dollars at that time has been removed.

The vein at the point of discovery is five feet wide, in the middle of which is a small seam which assays around 4,000\$ a ton, while the balance of the vein is milling grade. A similar strike was reported two weeks ago at another point on the vein, and since that time the management has blocked out something over 100,000\$ in ore, with no discontinuance of the vein or the values. The dump at this property contains many thousands of tons of valuable ore mined many years ago, though not merchantable at that time. This will all be utilized by the present owners.

The Belle of Granite is owned by

the Low Pass Mining company, which was incorporated last July to take over and operate a group of seven claims. The company is planning to install a water power plant, also to remodel the mill. A small cupel furnace will be erected to smelt the rich ore at the mine.

The Granite Tunnel company has encountered a vein in the tunnel which pans free gold and is said to be fine milling material. The vein has been drifted on for a short distance and shows good average values. Production from this vein will begin soon. In the meantime the breast of the tunnel will be continued until the Yankee Blade, Washington and other veins are encountered.

The Tintic Smelter.

The fight between the Rio Grande Ry. and the Knight interests of Tintic still continues and the Knight people are throwing all of their business to the San Pedro Ry. This fight started a few months ago and since that time not a pound of ore from the Knight mines has been shipped out over the Rio Grande Ry. Mr. Knight claims that the Tintic smelter at Silver City could have been operated successfully had the Rio Grande people given him an even break with the other Utah smelters in the matter of coal and coke and even went so far as to say that there is a prospect of the plant being reopened if the railroad will give him a square deal and make Silver City a common point in the shipment of supplies.

The ore which is now being billed out by the Knight mines and other shippers at Silver City amounts to about 90 carloads weekly and this means between 40,000\$ and 50,000\$ worth of business per month for the San Pedro Ry. which is getting the entire tonnage. At Silver City a report was circulated this week to the effect that one of the big smelting companies had secured an option upon the Knight Smelter. We are unable to verify the report at this time.—Reporter, Eureka, Utah.

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